Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-5 (Cancelled).

6. (Withdrawn) A surgical implant for securing sutures, grafts, synthetic materials, and soft tissue to soft tissue at a selected target site comprising:

(a) a piton member having proximal and distal ends, said distal end being operative to penetrate into and become embedded within said soft tissue at said target site, said piton member being manually positionable within the tissue such that said piton member defines a pathway of penetration therewithin;

(b) an attachment member formed upon said proximal end of said piton member, said attachment member being designed to receive and securably hold said suture, graft or soft tissue;

c) wherein said attachment member is formed relative said piton member such that in use, when said suture, graft or soft tissue is attached to said attachment member and tension is applied thereto, said piton member is caused to advance towards said penetration pathway.

7. (Withdrawn) The surgical implant of Claim 6 wherein said distal end of said piton member is operative to penetrate into and become embed within periosteum.

8. (Withdrawn) The surgical implant of Claim 6 where said first pathway of penetration extends along a first axis and said strain imparted to said attachment members applied along a second axis, wherein said first and second axes are not parallel to one another.

9. (Withdrawn) The surgical implant of Claim 6 wherein said first pathway of penetration extends along a first axis and said strain imparted to said attachment is applied along a second axis, wherein said first and second axes are parallel to one another.

10. (Withdrawn) An affixation device for securing sutures, grafts, synthetic materials and soft tissue to periosteum or soft tissue at a selected target site comprising:

(a) an affixation member for ensnaring with and becoming embedded in said periosteum or soft tissues; and

(b) an attachment member formed upon said affixation member, said attachment member being designed to receive and securably hold said suture, graft, synthetic material, or soft tissue.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for securing sutures, grafts, synthetic materials, and soft tissue to soft tissue at a selected target site comprising:

(a) providing a surgical implant, said implant comprising a piton member having proximal and distal ends, said distal end being designed and configured to penetrate into and become embedded within said tissue at said target site, said piton member being manually insertable within soft tissue such that said piton member defines a pathway of penetration therewithin, said implant further having an attachment member formed thereon being designed to receive and securably hold said suture, graft or soft tissue;

b) inserting said distal end of said piton member of said surgical implant directly into said soft tissue at said selected target site; and

(c) securing said soft tissue to said attachment member of said implant such that as said soft tissue is caused to apply tension to said attachment member, a single piton member is caused to advance towards said penetration pathway.

12. (Withdrawn) A surgical implant for securing sutures, grafts, synthetic materials, and soft tissue to bone or soft tissue at a selected target site comprising:

(a) a base member having a piton member extending therefrom, said base member being compressible against said bone or soft tissue such that said piton member is operative to become embedded within said bone or soft tissue at said target site, said at least one piton member being oriented to define a pathway of penetration within said bone or soft tissue;

(b) an attachment member formed upon said base member, said attachment member being designed to receive and securably hold such suture, graft, or soft tissue;

(c) wherein said attachment member is formed on the base member relative said at least one piton member such that in use, when said suture, graft, or soft tissue is attached to said attachment member and tension is applied thereto, said at least one piton member is caused to advance toward said penetration pathway.

13. (Withdrawn) The surgical implant of Claim 12 wherein said body member has at least two prong-shaped piton members extending therefrom.

14. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 13 wherein said prong-shaped piton members are formed in generally parallel relation to one another.

15. (Withdrawn) The surgical implant of Claim 12 wherein said at least one piton member is designed to embed within periosteum.

16. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 12 wherein said implant body comprises an elongate shaft having a plurality of outwardly-extending piton members extending therefrom, each respective one of said piton members defining a dedicated pathway of penetration.

17. (Withdrawn) The implant of Claim 16 wherein said plurality of piton members are arranged in pairs of two opposed, outwardly-flaring prongs.

18. (Withdrawn) The implant of Claim 16 wherein said base member comprises an elongate shaft and said outwardly-flaring prongs are formed sequentially along the length thereof.

19. (Currently amended) A surgical tissue implant for permanent implantation within a patient comprising:

i) a system for securing a suture within a selected target site of soft tissue comprising:

a) a suture cord having proximal and distal ends extensible through said target site of soft tissue;

b) a plurality of anchor members disposed linearly upon said suture, each respective one of said plurality of anchor members being operative to penetrate into and become embedded in fixed position within said soft tissue at said target site;

c) each respective one of said plurality of said anchor members being operatively configured such that said suture is advanceable through said soft tissue at said selected target site in a first distal direction and incapable of movement in an opposite direction ; and

ii) a sling for permanent implantation for providing support to an internal organ or tissue, said sling disposed upon at least one proximal end of said at least one suture, and said sling being fixed in orientation and permanently positionable adjacent ~~an~~ said internal organ or tissue.

20. (Previously presented) The implant of Claim 19, wherein each respective one of said plurality of anchor members comprises generally V-shaped prongs having said suture cord extend axially therethrough.

21. (Withdrawn) An affixation device for securing sutures, grafts, synthetic materials in soft tissue at a selected target site comprising an anchor plate positionable upon a selected target site, said anchoring plate being operatively transitional between a first configurational wherein said anchoring plate is receptive to receive said suture, graft, synthetic material or soft tissue thereto and a second closed configuration wherein said suture, graft, synthetic material or soft tissue remains bound thereto.

22. (Withdrawn) The affixation device in Claim 21, wherein said anchoring plate comprises:

a) a first anchoring plate member having at least one aperture formed thereon;

b) a second annular member having at least one aperture formed thereon, said first anchoring plate being disposed within second annular member; and

c) wherein said first anchoring plate is mounted within said second annular member such that said device transitions between said first operative configuration, wherein said at least one aperture on said inner plate is alignable with said at least one aperture on said second annular ring such that said suture, graft, synthetic material or

soft tissue may be received therethrough, and a said second closed configuration wherein said apertures respectively formed on the first anchoring plate member and on the second annular member are out of alignment relative one another.

23. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 22, wherein said first anchoring plate member has a mechanism formed thereon for causing said device to selectively transition from said first operative configuration to said second closed configuration.

24. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 22, wherein said second annular member has a mechanism formed thereon for causing said device to selectively transition from said first operative configuration to said second closed configuration.

25. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 22, wherein when said apertures are respectively formed on the first anchoring plate member and on the second annular member are out of alignment relative one another, said suture, graft, synthetic material or soft tissue remains bound thereto without a tied suture knot.

26. (Withdrawn) A system for securing sutures at a selected target site comprising:

a) a suture line having a plurality of protuberances formed linearly therealong;

b) an anchoring plate attachable to said selected target site, said anchoring plate having an aperture formed therein for receiving said suture line with protuberances formed thereon; and

c) wherein said anchoring plate is operative to selectively engage with respective ones of said protuberances of such suture line, such that when engaged

with the respective one of separate protuberances, said suture line is securably maintained in position relative said anchoring plate.

27. (Withdrawn) The system of Claim 26, wherein said aperture formed upon said anchoring plate is formed from an elastic material which is operative to enable said suture line with protuberances formed thereon to selectively pass therethrough.

28. (Withdrawn) An affixation device for securing sutures, grafts, synthetic materials and soft tissue at a selected target site comprising:

a) an anchor plate positionable upon said selected target site, said anchoring plate having a channel formed therein to receive said suture, graft, synthetic material, said channel being crimpable such that when such suture, graft or synthetic material is received within said channel and said channel is crimped, said suture, graft or synthetic material remains bound therein.

29. (Withdrawn) The affixation device of Claim 28, wherein said device further comprises a support mesh positionable upon said selected target site, said mesh providing a platform surface for receiving said anchoring plate.

30. (Withdrawn) The affixation device of Claim 28, wherein said anchoring plate is formed from bioabsorbable material.

31. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 28, wherein said anchoring plate is formed from non-bioabsorbable material.

32. (Withdrawn) The affixation device of Claim 29, wherein said anchoring plate is formed from bioabsorbable material.

33. (Withdrawn) The device of Claim 29, wherein said anchoring plate is formed from non-bioabsorbable material.

34. (Withdrawn) The affixation device of Claim 28, wherein said device has at least two channels formed therein, each respective channel being operative to receive said suture, graft, or synthetic material and crimpable such that said suture, graft, or synthetic material received therein remains bound thereto when said respective channel members crimp.

35. (Currently amended) A method of providing permanent support to an internal organ or tissue within a patient's body comprising the steps:

a) providing a surgical tissue implant, said implant comprising:

i) first and second suture lines having proximal and distal ends, each line being extensible through dedicated target sites of soft tissue in a distal direction;

ii) a plurality of anchor members disposed linearly upon each respective line, each respective one of said plurality of anchor members being operative to penetrate into and become embedded in fixed position within said soft tissue at said target site;

iii) each respective one of said plurality of said anchor members being operatively configured such that said line is advanceable through said soft tissue at said selected target site in a first distal direction and incapable of movement in an opposite direction; and

iv) a permanently implantable sling disposed intermediate the proximal ends of said lines; and

b) introducing said implant in step a) within a patient's body such that the sling is positioned adjacent said internal organ or tissue and advancing said lines

through dedicated target sites such that the sling is permanently positioned adjacent said internal organ or tissue.

36 (Withdrawn) A method for securing sutures, grafts, or synthetic materials and soft tissue at a selected target site comprising the steps:

a) providing an anchor plate positionable upon said selected target site, said anchoring plate being operatively transitional between a first configuration wherein said anchoring plate is receptive to receive said suture, graft, or synthetic material thereto and a second, closed configuration wherein said suture, graft, or synthetic material remains bound thereto;

b) positioning said affixation device upon said target site;

c) placing a suture, graft, or synthetic material within said anchoring plate when said anchoring plate assumes said first configuration; and

d) operatively transitioning said anchoring plate from said first configuration to said second configuration.

37. (Withdrawn) A method for securing sutures at a selected target site comprising the steps:

a) providing a suture securing system, said suture securing system comprising:

i) a suture line having a plurality of protuberances formed linearly therealong;

ii) an anchoring plate attachable to said selected target site, said anchoring plate having an aperture formed therein for receiving said suture line with protuberances formed thereon; and

iii) wherein said anchoring plate is operative to selectively engage with respective ones of said protuberances of such suture line, such that when engaged with the respective one of separate protuberances, said suture line is securably maintained in position relative said anchoring plate;

b) positioning said anchor plate to said selected target site; and

c) selectively advancing said suture line having said plurality of protuberances formed linearly therealong through said aperture of said anchoring plate.

38. (Withdrawn) A method for securing sutures, grafts, or synthetic materials at a selected target site comprising the steps:

a) providing an affixation device, said affixation device comprising:

i) an anchor plate positionable upon said selected target site, said anchoring plate having a channel formed therein to receive said suture, graft, synthetic material, said channel being crimpable such that when such suture, graft or synthetic material is received within said channel and said channel is crimped, said suture, graft or synthetic material remains bound therein;

b) placing said suture, graft or synthetic material within said channel of said affixation device; and

c) crimping said channel of said affixation device such that said suture, graftor synthetic material remains bound therein.

39. (Withdrawn) The implant of Claim 19, wherein each respective one of said plurality of anchor members comprises a single prong having said suture cord extend axially therethrough.

40. (Withdrawn) The implant of Claim 39, wherein the plurality of anchor members are disposed upon the suture cord in a staggered fashion, wherein the anchor members alternate between being disposed on one side of the suture cord and the other side of the suture cord.

41. (Withdrawn) The implant of Claim 39, wherein the plurality of anchor members are sequentially disposed upon the suture cord along one side of the suture cord.

42. (Withdrawn) The implant of Claim 39, wherein the plurality of anchor members are radially disposed along the suture cord.

43. (Cancel) The method of Claim 35, wherein said lines are selected from the group comprising sutures, tissues, and grafts.

44. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 35, wherein in step a) each respective one of said plurality of anchor members comprises generally V-shaped prongs having said line extend axially therethrough.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 35, wherein each respective one of said plurality of anchor members comprises a single prong having said line extend axially therethrough.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 45, wherein the plurality of anchor members are disposed upon the line in a staggered fashion, wherein the anchor members alternate between being disposed on one side of the line and the other side of the line.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 45, wherein the plurality of anchor members are sequentially disposed upon the line along one side of the line.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 45, wherein the plurality of anchor members are radially disposed along the line.

49. (New) The surgical tissue implant of Claim 19 wherein said sling is fabricated from a material selected from the group consisting of a harvested graft of tissue and a strip of fabricated synthetic material.

50. (New) The method of Claim 35 wherein in step (b), said implant is positioned adjacent the urethra.

51. (New) The method of Claim 50 wherein in step (b), said sling is positioned beneath the urethra.

52. (New) The method of Claim 35 wherein in step (b), said sling is positioned beneath the urethra and operative to define a space therebetween.